

**Interagency Wildfire Management Team
Meeting Notes
February 11, 2004**

Doug Tucker (Los Alamos County Fire Department) and several members of the IWMT attended a meeting conducted by the Institute for the Study of Planet Earth, University of Arizona, to review and evaluate the Fire-Climate-Society (FCS-1) modeling system. The Jemez Mountains is one of four test regions for this modeling system, which was developed under an EPA grant. The model was well received by the reviewers. It is useful for regional prioritization of wildfire hazards and for facilitating discussion among managers. Suggestions for future improvements included the addition of a fuels data layer, the incorporation of power lines and utility infrastructures, and improvements to the vegetation data layer. For more information, visit the website www.walter.arizona.edu.

Doug also indicated that the Fire Department has scheduled its training courses one month earlier than normal in anticipation of an early start to the wildfire season. The 2004 wildfire season is expected to be similar to the 2002 season.

Gene Darling (Emergency Management and Response, LANL) announced that a training exercise, that includes a wildfire scenario, will be conducted at the LANL Emergency Operations Center in late March.

Phoebe Suina and Shannon Smith (Infrastructure Projects Group, LANL) are completing the documentation required for thinning in the portion of Rendija Canyon that is owned by DOE. Preparations for thinning in Los Alamos Canyon and near LANL's University House are also underway.

Phil Taylor (Emergency Management, Los Alamos County) has been addressing safety hazards associated with windthrown trees in severely burned areas.

Marla Rodgers (Bandelier National Monument) reported that the wildfire hazard in the piñon-juniper zone at Bandelier has been increasing. Bandelier will also conduct their fire training courses in March. For more information, contact Marla at 505-672-3861 x551.

Bill Gall (Los Alamos Area Office, Department of Energy) has been reviewing the draft baseline needs assessment for fire protection services at LANL.

Sam Loftin (Ecology Group, LANL) announced that Bill Armstrong will conduct a tour of the thinning operations in Bayo Canyon on Thursday, February 12. Sam also reported that the East Jemez Resource Council will meet at 9 AM on Thursday, February 19. The meeting will be located in the Ecology Group Conference Room.

The next IWMT meeting will be at 9:30 AM on Wednesday, February 25, at TA-21, Building 210 in the RRES-ECO Conference Room (142). The IWMT meets every other week and these meetings are open to the public. Contact Randy Balice (balice@lanl.gov, 665-1270) for further information, or to get on the distribution list for these meeting notes.